

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication device, comprising:
 - ~~a.~~ a transceiver (PHY) communicating data packets with a link partner according to a selectable communication protocol, the PHY having a data register therewithin, the data register receiving data representative of the selectable communication protocol; and
 - ~~b.~~ a media access controller (MAC) adapted for use in a packet-based communication network and operably coupled with the transceiver, the media access controller directly accessing the data register for receiving data representative of the selectable communication protocol.
2. (Original) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the PHY is integrally coupled with the MAC.
3. (Original) The communication device of claim 2, wherein the PHY and the MAC are integrated on a monolithic VLSI component.
4. (Previously Presented) The communication device of claim 1, wherein the selectable communication protocol is a protocol defined by an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol.

5. (Original) The communication device of claim 4, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 protocol includes a 10Base-T communication protocol and a 100Base-T communication protocol.

6. (Original) The communication device of claim 5, wherein the 100Base-T communication protocol includes a 100Base-T4 communication protocol, a 100Base-TX communication protocol, a 100Base-FX communication protocol, and a 100Base-T2 communication protocol.

7. (Original) The communication device of claim 5, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 protocol is one of a full-duplex communication protocol and a half-duplex communication protocol.

8. (Original) The communication device of claim 5, wherein the PHY and the MAC are integrally coupled on a monolithic VLSI component.

9. (Original) The communication device of claim 5, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol includes an autonegotiation communication protocol, and wherein the device further comprises an autonegotiation controller, operably coupled to the data register, the autonegotiation controller selecting the selectable communication protocol.

10. (Original) The communication device of claim 9, wherein the data representative of the selectable communication protocol include autonegotiation state data.

11. (Original) The communication device of claim 10, wherein the data register is a link partner capability register.

12. (Original) The communication device of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of PHY and a plurality of MAC, each PHY having a MAC uniquely corresponding therewith.

13. (Original) The communication device of claim 12, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol includes an autonegotiation communication protocol, and wherein the device further comprises an autonegotiation controller corresponding with each of the plurality of PHY, the autonegotiation controller being operably coupled to the data register, the autonegotiation controller selecting the selectable communication protocol.

14. (Original) The communication device of claim 13, wherein the data register is a link partner capability register.

15. (Currently Amended) A communication network, comprising:

a.—a transceiver (PHY) communicating data packets through a communication network according to a selectable communication protocol, the PHY having

(1)—a PHY controller controlling the selectable communication protocol of the communication network, and

(2)—a state data register storing data representative of a state of the selectable communication protocol;

b.—a media access controller (MAC), operably coupled with a first communication system, the MAC being integrably coupled with the PHY, the MAC directly accessing the state data register corresponding with the state data register in the PHY;

c.—a link partner operably coupled with a second communication system, the link partner cooperating with the PHY controller to select the selectable communication protocol; and

d.—a communication channel, operably coupling the PHY with the link partner.

16. (Original) The communication network of claim 15, wherein the PHY and the MAC are integrated on a monolithic VLSI component.

17. (Original) The communication network of claim 16, wherein the selectable communication protocol is a protocol defined by an IEEE Standard 802.3 communication

protocol.

18. (Original) The communication network of claim 17, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 protocol includes a 10Base-T communication protocol and a 100Base-T communication protocol.

19. (Original) The communication network of claim 18, wherein the 100Base-T communication protocol includes a 100Base-T4 communication protocol, a 100Base-TX communication protocol, a 100Base-FX communication protocol, and a 100Base-T2 communication protocol.

20. (Original) The communication network of claim 18, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 protocol is one of a full-duplex communication protocol and a half-duplex communication protocol.

21. (Original) The communication network of claim 18, wherein the IEEE Standard 802.3 communication protocol includes an autonegotiation communication protocol, and wherein the PHY controller further comprises an autonegotiation controller, operably coupled to the data register, the autonegotiation controller selecting the selectable communication protocol.

22. (Original) The communication network of claim 17, wherein the data representative of the selectable communication protocol include autonegotiation state data.

23. (Original) The communication network of claim 22, wherein the data register is a link partner capability register.